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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant Named  
Inventor : Christopher Lee Berg  
Appln. No. : 10/057,840  
Filed : October 26, 2001  
Title : APPARATUS FOR RETAINING  
OTHERWISE HAND-HELD  
RETRACTORS  
Docket No. : M81.12-0058

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

RECEIVED  
MAR 27 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Express Mail No.: EL 763829827US

Sir:

Prior to an Examiner's first Action in the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 29-36, such that pending claims 1-36 are as follows:

1. A retractor retaining device for retaining a retractor from a retractor support in a retraction position within a surgical wound, the device comprising:  
a main body attachable to the retractor support; and  
a flexible loop detachably attached at one end to the main body for engaging a proximal end of the retractor such that the retractor is retained in the retraction position.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the flexible loop is attached such that the loop may be adjusted in size for engaging the proximal end of the retractor.
3. The device of claim 1 and further including an attaching mechanism that engages and attaches the retaining device to the retractor support.